

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00064 271255Z

47 45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-04 A-01 OPR-01 CU-02 FBO-02

OC-05 CCO-00 USIA-06 PER-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 ABF-01 SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00 DODE-00 IO-10 /072 W

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P 270855Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2226

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 064

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, APER, GR, US

SUBJECT: SAFEHAVEN FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN THESSALONIKI

REF: THESSALONIKI'S 38, 50, AND 62.

DEPT FOR EUR/EX AND EUR/GRK

1. AS DEPT AWARE, CONGEN BUILDING, WHICH HOUSES BOTH OFFICES AND QUARTERS FOR STAFF AND FAMILIES, HAS BEEN OBJECT OF REPEATED HOSTILE DEMONSTRATIONS SINCE BEGINNING OF CYPRUS CRISIS LAST SUMMER. (REFTELS). WHILE PROTESTING GROUPS WELL CONTAINED THUS FAR BY LOCAL POLICE, THERE NO PRESENT INDICATION WHEN STUDENT, CYPRUS-INSPIRED, ANTI-KARAMANLIS, AND OTHER UNREST WHICH INVARIABLY GIVEN ANTI-AMERICAN SPIN MAY ABATE. INDEED, VISIT BY ALIENS POLICE DIRECTOR ON ME LAST FRIDAY (THESS 62) INDICATES AUTHORITIES ANTICIPATE CONTINUATION SUCH INCIDENTS FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD.

2. IN CIRCUMSTANCES I FEEL OBLIGED TO URGE THAT RENEWED CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO PROPOSAL MADE EARLIER BY EMBASSY ADMIN COUNSELOR TO EUR/EX THAT AVAILABLE FURNISHED HOUSE AT AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL BE RENTED AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 THESSA 00064 271255Z

STAND-BY SAFEHAVEN FOR OUR PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS,

AT LEAST UNTIL PRESENT TENSIONS SUBSIDE. RSO ALSO CONCERNED OVER SITUATION AND CONCURS IN PROPOSAL. PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF REPEATED DEMONSTRATIONS ON CHILDREN IN BUILDING ADDED FACTOR IN RECOMMENDATION.

3. IN RECENT WEEKS, THREAT PERCEIVED FROM PLANNED DEMONSTRATIONS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAS RESULTED IN BUILDING CLEARANCE OF ALL EXCEPT SKELETON SECURITY FORCE ON THREE OCCASIONS. CONGEN LOCATION IN HEART OF CITY, CLOSE TO UNIVERSITY, AND ANTICIPATED CONTINUATION OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT AMONG STUDENT, LEFTIST, CYPRIOT, AND OTHER ELEMENTS MAKE SUCH ACTIONS, ALTHOUGH AVOIDED WHENEVER POSSIBLE, LIKELY FOR AT LEAST NEXT FEW MONTHS. (THESSALONIKI UNIV., LARGEST IN GREECE, HAS APPRX. 2000 ARAB STUDENTS, OF WHOM ROUGHLY HALF ARE JORDANIANS OR PALESTINIANS.)

4. IN VIEW FOREGOING, AND GREAT DESIRABILITY OF HAVING ESTABLISHED LOCATION WHERE OUR PEOPLE CAN PROCEED AND STAY DURING EMERGENCY PERIODS, STRONGLY RECOMMEND AUTHORIZATION RENT HOUSE AT AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL AS SAFEHAVEN FOR AT LEAST BALANCE OF FISCAL YEAR WHICH, AT MODEST \$400 MONTHLY, WOULD AMOUNT TO \$2000. AT THAT TIME (JUNE 30) WE COULD TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT SITUATION AND DETERMINE WHETHER CONTINUATION DESIRABLE.
BRENNAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THESSA00064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750029-0569
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750116/aaaaaoif.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 THESSALONIKI'S 38, 75 50, 75 AND 62
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAFEHAVEN FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN THESSALONIKI
TAGS: ASEC, APER, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006